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Secret Activity Abroad Ends, CIA Reports

Agrees To Tight Controls

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WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Colby has given members of Congress private assurances that the United States has ended all covert political operations abroad.

And an understanding has been reached with the administration under which key lawmakers are to be notified regularly and in advance of major intelligence-gathering projects as well as clandestine operations planned by the super-secret "Forty Committee."

At President Ford's urging, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Colby met secretly last Friday on Capitol Hill with Reps. Edward Herbert (D., La.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Lucien Nedzi (D., Mich.), chairman of the subcommittee on intelligence operations, and Thomas E. (Doc) Morgan (D., Pa.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

At the meeting, arranged by Nedzi, Kissinger and Colby, it was agreed to provide the Foreign Affairs Committee or any subcommittee Morgan designates with all intelligence-gathering information "relating to foreign affairs." Nedzi's subcommittee already receives such information in addition to other intelligence material.

Tighter Reins

The agreement, which for the first time will give the Foreign Affairs Committee advance information on CIA operations, is designed to give a congressional body with a foreign policy jurisdiction closer control over CIA ventures like those in Chile and Greece.

Nedzi said Kissinger and Colby specifically had agreed to provide them the same intelligence information that is in the hands of the exclusive Forty Committee.

According to congressional and White House sources, this policy will have the effect of limiting Kissinger's personal authority to use the CIA as an instrument of global power politics.

The Forty Committee, which oversees and authorizes covert intelligence operations, is run by Kissinger, who also heads the National Security Council. It has only five members who, in addition

to Kissinger are Joseph Sisco, under secretary of state for political Affairs; William Clements, deputy secretary of Defense; Gen. George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Colby.

Although the CIA is supposed to be largely independent, to better supply objective intelligence data, Kissinger has dominated the Forty Committee and the agency because of his dual role as Secretary of State and the President's National security chief. And until now, the committee has been accountable to no one except the President.

But, President Ford, following a meeting with congressional leaders, approved the idea of closer cooperation between Congress and agencies involved with intelligence operations.

The decision to let members of Congress in on deci-

sions of the Forty Committee is part of an administration effort to blunt rising criticism of the American role in the downfall of the elected government in Chile and the subsequent assassination of its president, Salvador Allende.

Nedzi said he has been assured that the CIA and the

00712

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Forty Committee no longer are engaging in covert political operations like the one in Chile.

And he said the CIA administration has pledged to keep members of Congress informed in advance for the first time on plans for major intelligence operations, which

The understanding, Nedzi said, may afford members the opportunity to give advice and even help kill some proposed projects which they feel could damage American interests. The House Foreign Affairs Committee includes a number of liberals who for the first time will be privy to intelligence information.

Previous inquiries by Nedzi, who has wrestled with the problem of congressional control of intelligence operations since he took over his subcommittee in 1971, have disclosed an increased tendency toward White House control of the CIA for its own purposes — in the Watergate coverup and the harassment of Pentagon papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg and in the Chile Affair.

Watergate Use

In Watergate, the President and his top aides sought to use the CIA in the coverup. And there was evidence that Kissinger authorized a request to the CIA for a psychiatric profile of Ellsberg.

In the Chile affair, the Forty Committee, acting on Kissinger's suggestion, authorized the use of \$8 million to support opponents of Allende. These opponents, sponsored by the CIA, created the climate that toppled Allende and his government.

As a result, the CIA again has come under fire from congressional critics, including Sen. Frank Church (D., Idaho), a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Rep. Michael Harrington (D., Mass.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee who leaked Colby's testimony on the Chile operation.

The congressional critics, noting that CIA intervention has resulted in a military dictatorship in Chile, again are calling for tighter controls of the agency.

Another Culprit

But Nedzi, who at Harrington's request had gotten Colby's frank testimony, said that the target of criticism should not be the CIA alone but the Forty Committee.

Nedzi is concerned that the Forty Committee, dominated by Kissinger, has become a "super-intelligence agency,"

which, unlike the CIA, is not governed by the National Security Act of 1947.

Thus, under pressure from congressional critics, and with Nedzi and Armed Services Committee Chairman Hebert acting as intermediaries, the arrangement was worked out for closer relations between the Foreign Affairs Committee and the intelligence agencies.

Their hope, which the CIA shares, is that Kissinger will not use the CIA as easily as he has if he knows that congressional outsiders are being kept informed.

Whether this new arrangement guarantees that Congress will in fact exercise closer control of CIA ventures remains to be seen.

00713